

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending in the application following entry of the amendments herein. The Examiner identified claims 2, 4, 5 and 8-12 as allowable but objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 2, which is now canceled. Claims 14-19 were withdrawn in response to the restriction requirement. Claims 14-19 are canceled herein without prejudice to presentation of these claims in one or more continuing applications. Claim 20 is also canceled herein.

ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 13 are rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,672,363 (Schmidt). Schmidt discloses a window shade including a creased panel defining an out-of-round profile that is triangular (Fig. 2) when it is wound by a drive motor M. If the winding shaft (1) were to be driven at a constant rotational speed, the out-of-roundness of the wound panel would cause non-uniformity in the panel linear speed (*e.g.*, the speed at which a bottom rod (4) of the panel moves). Such variation in panel linear speed would be cyclic having three periods during each revolution of the winding shaft because of the triangular profile. Schmidt includes a transmission R between the drive motor M adapted to cyclically vary the rotational speed to compensate for, and eliminate, the cyclical variation in the panel linear speed. Col. 2, lines 16-22.

Claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claim 2, now canceled. Claim 2 was identified by the Examiner as allowable. Claim 1, therefore, should now be allowed.

Claims 3 and 6 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, should also be allowed for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 7, as amended, recites a method for controlling a roller shade including the steps of providing a motor engaging a roller tube and a control system to control the motor and vary rotational speed of the roller tube. The motor is controlled using the control system to rotate the roller tube while the control system determines the position of the lower end of a shade fabric. The rotational speed of the roller tube is varied by the control system depending on the position of the lower end of the shade fabric determined by the control system.

Schmidt does not disclose a method of controlling a roller shade in the manner claimed. As discussed above, the transmission of Schmidt provides cyclic variation in rotational speed. The variation in rotational speed, therefore, is automatically set in cyclic fashion and is not dependent upon the position of the lower end of the shade as determined by a control system.

For this reason, Schmidt does not include each and every feature of claim 7. Schmidt, therefore, does not anticipate claim 7. Claim 13 depends from claim 7 and, therefore, is not anticipated by Schmidt for the same reasons as claim 7.

The applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 13 based on Schmidt be withdrawn.


The Examiner rejected claim 20 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious based on U.S. Pat. No. 5,848,634 (Will). Claim 20 has been canceled.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance of claims 1 and 3-13 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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